[English]

Export of Defence Equipment

833. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV:
SHRI SUDHIR GIRI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a special department for the management of export of defence equipment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the items of defence equipment proposed to be exported; and

(d) the estimated quantum to be exported annually during the Eighth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Defence exports cover a range of lethal and non-lethal items manufactured by Ordnance Factory Board, Defence Public Sector Undertakings and the civil sector.

(d) The export target for the defence production agencies is fixed annually and as such quantum of defence exports to be undertaken during the Eighth Five Year Plan cannot be assessed as yet. The export target (including deemed exports) fixed for the defence production units during the year 1991-92 is Rs. 104 crore.

Export of Horticulture Produce

834. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the export of horticulture produce during the current financial year;

(b) if so, its percentage share to the total exports during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps being taken to boost export of horticulture produce?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir. In fact, during April-January, 1991-92 export of horticulture produce have increased to Rs. 325 crores from Rs. 220.52 crores during the corresponding period last year indicating a growth of 47.38%.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) For boosting export of agricultural products, including horticulture produce, Government is taking promotional steps through various developmental bodies such as Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) for market development, product promotion, quality upgradation, improvement in packaging, arranging buyer-seller meets, participation in international trade fairs etc. Besides Government has also granted to higher Exim Scrips to select horticultural commodites.

Amendment to the Quota Policy

835. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council has urged the Union Government to withdraw amendments to the quota policy announced in December, 1991;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the world textile market is showing recessionary tendencies; and

(d) if so how it is likely to affect the textile export trade of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). In December 1991, the Government had amended certain provisions of Textile Export Entitlement Distribution Policy for 1992 and 1993. One of the amendments stipulated that when the same exporter is exporting under Past Performance Entitlement (PPE) and Contract Reservation Entitlement (CRE) and First Come First Served (FCFS) Systems also, the price quoted by the applicants for allocation under CRE and FCFS Systems shall not differ by more than 10% with reference to the price quoted by him under PPE System.

This amendment was introduced with a view to minimise the scope for cornering quotas under CRE and FCFS Systems by quoting artificially high prices and making adjustments in the prices quoted under Past Performance Entitlement System.

The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council through its letter dated 20th December, 91 requested withdrawal of the amendment. Subsequently through their letter dated 30th December, 1991 they informed the Government that the proposal is acceptable to them but only sought deferment of the date from which the amendment will be given effect to so that the modalities of implementation may be worked out.

(c) and (d). Government have received reports regarding recessionary trends in some importing countries, However the targets for the current year are expected to be achieved.

Indo–US Co–operation in the Field of Defence

836. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:
SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV:
SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATTANAYAK:
SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:
SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:
SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV:
PROF. MALINI BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level US military delegation visited India recently;

(b) if so, whether new vistas in Indo–US ties were touched upon during discussion;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of the agreement arrived at for defence co–operation between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). In keeping with the Government's policy of establishing co–operation in the Defence Sector with friendly foreign